

FACT SHEET



**Madison County Mines Site
Harmony Lakes Subsite - OU1
Fredericktown, Missouri**

June 2000

INTRODUCTION

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 7 will be holding a Public Availability Session to discuss sampling activities at the Madison County Mines Site, near Fredericktown, Missouri. EPA has results from lead sampling conducted around the Harmony Lakes Subsite of Operable Unit 1 (OU1). Some sample results show lead concentrations at a level which may pose a risk in residential settings. EPA is currently planning a removal action to clean-up the lead contamination in those residential areas.

BACKGROUND

Operable Unit 1 of the Madison County Mine Site is located in what is commonly referred to as the "Old Lead Belt," where mining activity was first recorded in about 1742 and continued into the 1970s. The mining and milling of ore in the Old Lead Belt produced an estimated 250 million tons of tailings/waste.

OU1 is located in the northeast quarter of Madison County, Missouri, ranging from three to five miles from the town of Fredericktown. OU1 consists of four major mining features, or subsites, that are referred to as the Mine La Motte tailings pile, the Harmony Lake tailings pile, the Basler tailings pile, and the Old Jack Mine.

The subject of this clean-up, the Harmony Lake tailings pile, is located approximately 1/4 mile west of the intersection of Highway OO and Copper Mines Road. This tailings pile

AVAILABILITY SESSION

EPA will hold an informal meeting:

Wednesday, June 28, 2000

4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Teen Town - City Hall

(Adjacent to Fredericktown Middle School)

605 Park Drive

Fredericktown, Missouri

Representatives from EPA and various health agencies will be available to answer your questions one-on-one. These representatives will be available to discuss the progress of the site investigation, health effects from lead exposure, and mining activity in the area.

Community members are encouraged to stop by at any time during this information session.

covers approximately 30 acres and includes properties used for both residential and recreational purposes. The residential properties surrounding Harmony Lake encompass approximately 50-60 acres.

SAMPLING UPDATE

In February 2000, soil and tailings samples were collected from in and around the Harmony Lake tailings pile, Mine La Motte tailings pile, Basler tailings pile, and the Old Jack Mine. Elevated lead levels were detected at each of these locations. Samples collected from residential yards and a picnic area around Harmony Lake detected lead concentrations ranging from 166 to 19,100 parts per million (ppm). Lead levels in the tailings located south of Harmony Lake Dam ranged from 257 to 35,000 ppm. Tailings samples collected from the tailings at the Mine La Motte tailings contained lead ranging from 490 to 3,970 ppm. Soil samples collected from near the Old Jack Mine contained lead ranging from 19,100 to 22,000 ppm. Samples collected from the Basler Tailings Pile detected lead levels ranging from 1,520 to 10,200 ppm.

FUTURE ACTIVITIES

At similar lead sites, EPA has set a residential “action level,” which would determine whether a particular residential property qualified for a lead clean-up. Action levels at those sites have ranged from 400 ppm to 800 ppm of lead.

In the past, EPA has addressed lead contaminated yards at residential properties by excavating the top layer of soil from the contaminated area(s) of the property and backfilling the yard with clean soil. Excavated areas are then re-vegetated with sod or grass seed.

HEALTH EDUCATION PROGRAM

EPA is encouraging Madison County residents to have their children’s blood-lead levels sampled by the Madison County Health Department, free of charge. Residents are welcome to contact the Madison County Health Department at (573) 783-2747, to schedule an appointment.

EPA, the Missouri Department of Health (MDOH), and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), recommend limiting exposure of young children to lead contaminated soil. This can be accomplished in the following ways:

- Children should not eat, drink or play in areas of known contamination.
- Wash children's hands after playing outside and before meals.
- Wash toys periodically and encourage children not to put toys in their mouths.
- Clean floors, window frames, window sills, and other surfaces often. Use a mop or sponge with warm water and a general all-purpose cleaner.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The report containing the initial sampling data collected in Madison County, called an Expanded Site Investigation, as well as other documents are available for review at the following location during normal business hours:

Ozark Public Library
137 W. Main
Fredericktown, Missouri

If you have questions about this fact sheet, or need additional information regarding this site, please contact:

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